

To Whom It May Concern:

As an owner of a small business (Greg's Market) for the last 19 years, I strongly support an earlier date for dipping suckers. My grocery store was run by my grandfather for close to 40 years and made a good living for his family. When I had a chance to buy it, I thought that I would be able to do the same for my family.

As it is, times change. I've had to adapt my business since I'm not able to compete with the big chain stores that have popped up nearby. Sucker dipping in the spring helped carry me over the long winter months. Now with the weather changes that seem to be happening, we have little to no snow so that means NO snowmobilers to serve. Plus with spring weather coming earlier, the suckers have run their course by the first of April and the people are not here.

If you could please see fit to permit an earlier dipping date for sucker fishing, that would allow many of our people to keep family traditions going and it would bring folks to Omer...which again would help the businesses in the area.

I usually employ two regular employees, plus myself, and when the business is busy I hire a couple part time people. In the past few years I have had to cut the hours of my regular people and there has been no need to hire extra, since there are very few people to serve.

Again, I hope that you are aware of how important this is. My business is the only store in the area and this past year has seen FOUR businesses in the region close, Jammers Bar and Grill...in town, Ma's Restaurant...in town (which has a new owner that opened about 6 weeks ago), Mariners Market just 2 miles up the road, and AuGres IGA, another 7 miles up the road.

I do thank you for studying this matter and I hope that you also will understand how much it means to me, the area, and its residents.

Sincerely,

Greg Schell 11-26-12

11-24-12

To Whom it may Concern
I Kathy Shirkey have
worked at Greys Market
Owner for 20+ years.

Sucker dipping or Sucker
Season as we call it is
Very important to the
Business, as well as myself
I received over time
for working extra hours
at that time, in which
I don't any other time of
year. It is very important
to the Store as well as
the Employees here.

Sincerely, Kathy Shirkey

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I SUE OLIVER HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE SUCKER DERBY COMMITTEE FOR 4 YEARS AND A RESIDENT OF THIS COMMUNITY FOR OVER 30 YEARS.


THE SUCKER DERBY COMMITTEE IS A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS FROM THE CITY OF OMER THAT GET TOGETHER TO DO SOMETHING FUN FOR KIDS DURING THE SUCKER DIPPING MONTH. WE USUALLY DO THIS THE FIRST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH WHICH SOMETIMES COMES THE SAME TIME AS EASTER. IF WE COULD STILL DO THE SUCKER DIPPING AND THE SUCKER DERBY THE SAME WEEKEND IT WOULD BRING IN SOME MUCH NEEDED BUSINESS FOR THE LOCAL BUSINESSES. THESE BUSINESSES DO STRUGGLE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

GREG'S MARKET IS A BIG SUPPORTER FOR THE SUCKER DERBY AS THEY SALE BUTTONS FOR US SO THE FOLKS CAN WIN PRIZES. WE MOSTLY DO THE FISHING CONTEST TO SEE THE FACES OF THE CHILDREN WHEN THEY CAN CATCH THIS UGLY, BUT VERY POPULAR FISH, KNOWN AS THE SUCKER.

SUCKER DIPPING HAS BEEN AROUND FOR MANY GENERATIONS AND CONTINUES TO BE PASSED DOWN TO MANY OF FAMILIES.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR CONSIDERING TO CHANGE THE DATE FOR THE SUCKER DIPPING IN OMER.

SINCERELY,
SUE OLIVER
OMER SUCKER DERBY COMMITTEE
OMER CITY CLERK

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Oliver".

To Whom It May Concern,

As manager of Rafters, formally Ma's Girls Restaurant, I am hoping that you will consider changing to an earlier opening date of sucker dipping.

We are a small business that just took over the first of October, knowing that this is the smallest city in Michigan. We are hoping that we will be able to build our business to the locals, but we are aware that we need to draw in the tourist also. As I understand it, sucker dipping in years past drew hundreds to this small community. As a new business facing a long winter with hardly any snow (global warming?), we could sure use a surge of people this spring.

I have also heard our locals speak of how late the opening date is now. They say that the ice has been going out earlier and earlier and the fish have all gone. So the tourists that enjoy walking around watching the nets go up and down, are just not in town.

Thank you for any consideration that you can give this.

Sincerely,


manager